

# Cleaning and Disinfecting in School Classrooms

Cleaning and disinfecting are key to limiting exposure to germs and maintaining a safe environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reduce the spread of germs by keeping surfaces clean and reminding students of the importance of hand hygiene.

## The Difference Between Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ✓ **Cleaning** reduces germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects and works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces.
  - Cleaning of surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.
- ✓ **Disinfecting** kills (or inactivates) germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works best by using chemicals, as directed, on surfaces after they've been properly cleaned.

## Which Disinfectant Products Should I Use?

You can use any EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19. Visit [epa.gov/listn](https://www.epa.gov/listn) or scan the QR code with your smart phone to check EPA's list of approved disinfectants.



## Where Should I Clean and Disinfect?

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the classroom. Check compatibility for products for use on electronic devices.

### Consider cleaning surfaces and objects including but not limited to:

- Door handles and knobs
- Desks and chairs
- Cabinets, lockers, and bookshelves
- Shared computer keyboards and mice
- Trash bins
- Light switches
- Pencil sharpener handles
- Sinks and surrounding areas
- Countertops
- Whiteboards or chalkboards
- Shared electronics such as printers
- Other shared learning materials

## When Should I Clean and Disinfect?

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily or between use by different students. Limit the use of shared objects when possible, or clean and disinfect between use.

### Options for cleaning and disinfection include:

- In the morning before students arrive
- Between classes (if students change rooms and while students are not present)
- Between use of shared surfaces or objects
- Before and after food service
- Before students return from recess or breaks
- After students leave for the day



Store cleaning and disinfection products out of the reach of students. Cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by or near students, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)